



**7th**

**Sunday**

**After**

**Pentecost**

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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### People of Zion

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Paul Shilton

Laura Burton

Sandra Mogensen

### Ministers

Pastor

Visitation Minister

Minister of Music

Organist

Pianist

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## PENTECOST 7

July 11, 2021

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### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: *Amos 7:7-15*

A reading from Amos.

*Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.*

<sup>7</sup>This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile  
away from his land.’ ”

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM:** *Psalms 85:8-13*

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD<sup>1</sup> God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their<sup>1</sup> hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to<sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell<sup>1</sup> in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have<sup>1</sup> met together;  
righteousness and peace have<sup>1</sup> kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up<sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look<sup>1</sup> down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed<sup>1</sup> grant prosperity,  
and our land will<sup>1</sup> yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be-<sup>1</sup> fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for<sup>1</sup> God a pathway.**

## **SECOND READING:** *Ephesians 1:3-14*

A reading from Ephesians.

*In Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished

on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL:** *Mark 6:14-29*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

<sup>14</sup>King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup>for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup>Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a

platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup>When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON:**

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1ii8wXeHWD8XVYgdn>

(Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy parent, you welcome your people into one family and gather all things to yourself. Bestow your grace upon your beloved church, lavish your wisdom upon us, and redeem us from our faults, that by our witness all might praise your glory. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Awesome Creator, you steadfastly tend to the smallest of seeds and the mightiest of sycamore trees. Spring up green growth from the earth, nourish the growth of fruit, grain, and other crops, and bless the work of farmers and labourers. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the oppressed, turn the ears of those who are in power to the voices of prophets in our own day. Protect those who speak difficult truths when it is risky to do so. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of strength, you are near to those who endure difficulty (especially Bea, Emma, Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Lynnette, Glenn, Maria, Beryl, Cathy, Robb, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby). Comfort all who are survivors of violence, guard the refugee and the immigrant, and protect all those who are victims of prejudice and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for this holy house and all those who worship here. We pray especially for those whose efforts behind the scenes often go unnoticed; for the custodians and maintenance workers, for our office staff, and for all of our volunteers. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you, God, for the saints, martyrs, and prophets who have died in the faith. We remember those in this community who have recently died (*especially Gerhard*). United with them as God's children, assure us that we are yours forever. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honour and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.  
By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

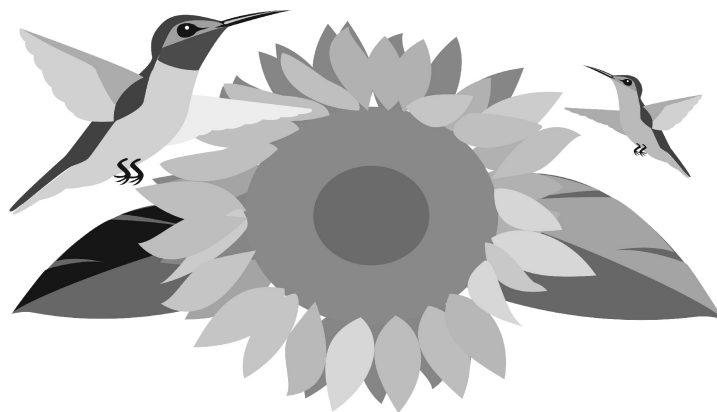
## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**ALL EVENTS REMAIN CANCELLED**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**“LIMITED” WORSHIP HAS RETURNED**

**WELCOME BACK!!!!**

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 YOUR CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HELD THEIR MEETING FOR JUNE.

IT WAS AGREED THAT “IN PERSON” WORSHIP WITH A “25 PERCENT CAPACITY” WILL RE-COMMENCE ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021 WITH OUR MORNING WORSHIP COMMENCING AT 10:00 A.M.

**COVID-19 PROTOCOL WILL BE IN PLACE AND YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO CALL IN TO THE OFFICE AT 519-271-8527 MONDAY TO THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. AND FRIDAY FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. TO REGISTER AND BE PLACED ON THE ATTENDANCE.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE OFFICE.

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**WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME  
TO THE ZION FAMILY**

***“AIDEN ROBERT BARNBY CADE”***

**SON OF**

**JEFFREY ROBERT CADE**

**AND**

**KRISTA MAY CADE (NEE VESSIE)**

**ON SATURDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

***Congratulations Aiden, Jeffrey & Krista***

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**JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER &  
SEMI-ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION  
STATEMENTS**

**The July/August Newsletter was mailed or hand delivered to ALL members on Monday, July 5, 2021. In order to save money on postage, your Contribution Statement covering January 1 to June 30, 2021 was mailed with the Newsletter.**

**There will be NO emailed Newsletter until September, 2021.**

## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

*Volunteers are the*  
**HEART**  
of our church



We are currently in the planning stage of organizing Schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers for when we are able to re-open our doors for Worship; and, when we are able to do so at **full capacity**.

**If you are able to help by volunteering to be a Reader, Greeter and/or Usher, please call and speak with Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

We deeply appreciate ALL of our current volunteers and are excited to add you to this list of “**special**” people

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## **TODAY'S PRAYER**



Let's put ourselves in the hands of our loving God and pray together  
that He will bless all of us and our families  
during the wonderful months of summer.

### **Summer blessing for families**

May we make our homes places of relaxation,  
joy, love, peace and safety.  
May we be generous and considerate,  
not thinking only about ourselves,  
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.  
Lord God, Creator of all things,  
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts  
during these months of summer and vacation days.  
Grant us refreshment of mind and body.  
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference  
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us  
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Wishing all of you a wonderful summer filled with blessings and God's  
grace...**

**Be safe and enjoy the days ahead of rest and relaxation!!  
God is good: All the time!!**



**IT HAS BEEN NICE TO SEE YOU !**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN  
NEXT SUNDAY !**